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Queenslands Bovine Reproduction Centre
Editorial

The drought conditions over large parts of northern and western areas of Queensland and New south Wales have brought the need for survival into sharp focus for many producers in those areas.

The recently released report on the CashCow project, which researched the fertility and reproductive performance of commercial herds across many areas of northern Australia has produced some interesting data.

The project involved 78,000 commercial breeding cows managed in 142 separate mobs on 72 breeding properties.

Two case studies in the project showed that 5-6% adult animal mortalities reduced the businesses operating margin by 20c/kg of all line weight produced, highlighting the cost of cow mortalities as a significant issue for beef producers in northern Australia.

The data was collected over 4 years from 2008, some of the better seasons in recent years. It is no wonder that the flatback push into the north is being seriously questioned.

It is pleasing to see the live export market begin to recover with increased volumes and prices and better prospects for the future. I heard recently of a mob of steers being drafted for a boat order, the flatbacks were rejected, trucked over 400km south and sold for 40c/kg less than the Brahman types that went on the boat. Something of a turn around to what has been going on in the last few years.
President’s paragraph

I would like to begin by thanking Andrew Olive for the past 3 years as President of ABBA. A good job, well done. I would also like to thank Roxanne and family for supporting Andrew at Raglan Station.

The severe climatic conditions are continuing throughout most of our Brahman country and as Col Delahunty would say – “the Brahman breed is the master of drought”. It was pleasing to see such a successful Big Country sale under these trying conditions. Congratulations to vendors and agents, a very uplifting result personally and for the entire Brahman breed.

It is fantastic to see the recovery of the live export trade. I feel very pleased for our northern producers now that they are on the road to rebuilding their businesses that were left stranded by the decision of the Government of the day. I hope it continues strongly for many years to come. Northern Australia is the backbone of our great breed and has come such a long way that their cattle are competitive with any Brahmans in the world. There has been some very influential producers in the north, too many to mention names, that have lead the fight to rebuilding the live export trade. To those people, I offer my congratulations and thanks on behalf of all other Brahman breeders.

We have some exciting events coming up in the next few years. It was pleasing to see strong entries for the 2014 Sydney Feature Show. I’m sure it will be a showcase event for the breed. Glen Pfeffer and his team have been working tirelessly to organise the feature show. A special thanks to Dr. George Jacobs of Mogul Brahman Stud, and his family for his generous support for the feature show and the Brahman breed for many years.

We are headed to Banana Station again on March 18th for a BIN field day. It will be exciting to view the round 1, round 2 and round 3 calves and study their growth and carcass data. Paul Williams will have some interesting information on ovarian and pregnancy scan data. The BIN project to date, has run very smoothly and a credit to Mark Wilson and his family for making such an important project come to fruition for our breed.

We have our prominent Brahman female sales approaching. Personally, I would like to wish all vendors good luck. There will be a host of genetics on offer at these sales, to make the sale very attractive to potential buyers.

I encourage members as they come into the weaning period, to give some thought to the upcoming Beef 2015 and World Brahman Congress 2016 to be held in Rockhampton. There will be stud cattle judging, unled judging and display area’s on offer to showcase our breed domestically and to the rest of the world. Keep in mind also, the commercial competitions that have been so successful for our breed in the past.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow councillors for voting me into the Presidential role. I feel very humbled and privileged to be in this position. My late father used to say “It doesn’t hurt to give back a little to a breed that has given so much to us”.

Shane Bishop
Ongoing drought across much of Queensland has pushed record numbers of cattle onto the market, driving down prices.

Around 80,000 head were killed each week for the first six weeks of the 2014, with 335,255 head slaughtered in that period. This was 73,557 more cattle than in the same period in 2013.

Meat and Livestock Australia reported that the 2013 slaughter of 8.34 million head was the highest since 1978, up 991,800 head on the previous year. Sadly, the ongoing dry forced a large number of females through the abattoirs, with 3.9 million head killed. This was an increase of 23 percent, or an additional 741,000 females compared to 2012 figures.

Increased numbers through the works in 2013 saw a record beef production of 2.32 million tonnes cwt, with the proportion of beef and veal exported surging to a record 68.6 percent of production.

The drought has seen more cattle go onto feed in southern states, with 810,000 head lot fed in the September-December 2013 quarter.

“Cattle numbers on feed actually reduced by five and a half percent in Queensland over the quarter as dry conditions increased grain and roughage prices whilst also negatively impacting upon the quality and quantity of suitable feeder cattle,” Australian Lot Feeders’ Association president Don Mackay said.

“Average feed grain prices were up nine percent year-on-year for the Darling Downs while domestic feeder cattle prices declined by four cents for the quarter and 16 cents year-on-year.”

There has been some good news for the industry, with heavy falls across the Top End due to cyclone activity.

A roundup of saleyard prices follows.

**NORTH QLD**

**CHARTERS TOWERS**

Jim Geaney, Geaney’s Livestock said no weekly prime and store sales had been held in the first nine weeks of the year due to dry conditions. At the time of writing, the first Charters Towers Combined Agents Weekly Prime and Store Sale had been booked for February 26, weather permitting.

Although some rain had been received in the district it was patchy and disappointing. Jim said it had been predicted that 200-300mm would be received due to Tropical Cyclone Dylan, and this prediction prompted the cancellation of the Big Country Sale, just 24 hours before the event.

“On my place, south of Charters Towers, we got 15 millimetres, although some places in Charters Towers got 30 to 40 millimetres,” Jim said.

He added that the best falls were recorded at Einsleigh, which received up to 125mm in mid-February.

The first Special Store Sale is planned for Charters Towers on March 28.

**CENTRAL QLD**

**GRACEMERE**

Prices rose considerably at the January 24 sale which yarded 1340 head. Feeder steers peaked at 201.2c/kg and feeder heifers sold to 150.2c, with younger steers selling to 171.2c/kg.

Gordon Fletcher, Oldfleet Cattle Co, Mt Coolon offered 688kg Brahman steers which were knocked down for a healthy 163c/kg or $1122/hd.

A run of 80 No.1 grey Brahman heifers from Day Grazing, Marylands, St Lawrence sold for 144c/kg. They weighed in at 365kg to realise $828.

On January 31, Trevor and Wendy Mylrea, Calliope, offered 521kg prime Brahman cows. They went for 139c/kg or $725/hd. Brahman cattle and calves marketed by Noel and Sandra Ward, Baralaba, made $690.

Cattle at the February 14 sale were described as “good to useful”, with grey Brahman steers topping the market. A pen of 513kg steers from Glendale Pastoral Co sold for 171.2c/kg to return $879/hd.

The Mylrea family offered prime 496kg Brahman cows which made $671 (135c/kg). A line of 128 No.3 Brahman heifers from Cecil Connolly, Krismark Downs, Theodore, weighed in at 320kg/hd, peaking at 140c/kg to return $448.

**MOURA**

The 22nd annual John Pope Memorial Show and Sale was held at Moura Saleyards on February 12, yarding 791 head.

Bill and Anne Reid, Pengunny Pastoral Co, Bauhinia presented some Brahman heifers that they had purchased as calves at foot. The Reids were awarded the champion pen of 404kg heifers, which sold for 151c/kg or $611. The Reids also sold a line of 297 Brahman steers, knocked down to Wileeena Cattle Co, Dingo.

Newly appointed Elders Moura branch manager Des Cuffe said the February 26 sale had been called off due to a lack of numbers and it was likely that the sales would be held monthly, rather than fortnightly, until conditions improved.

“We’ve got a bit of feed here at the moment and people are hanging on to what grass they’ve got. But I get the feeling that if it doesn’t rain soon people will be unloading cattle heavily,” Des said.

Des said he formerly was partner in a private stock and station agency in Charleville, then had four years working in real estate in Beaudesert before coming to Moura.

**EMERALD**

Store prices continued to ease at the February 13 Emerald Store and Prime Sale, with restockers waiting for further rain.

Craig and Carla McCamley received 149c/kg or $272 for their 181kg red Brahman steers.

**SOUTH QLD**

**ROMA**

The February 11 store sale yarded 5400 head, with strong competition for medium weight steers. The Paterson family, Ingle Downs, Roma sold 398kg Brahman steers for 164c/kg or $563/hd.

At the February 13 sale 548kg cows from B. and N. Bauer, Arlington, Augathella were knocked down for 150c/kg or $272. The Reids also sold a line of 297 404kg heifers, which sold for 151c/kg or $611. The Reids were awarded the champion pen of 404kg heifers, which sold for 151c/kg or $611. The Reids also sold a line of 297 Brahman steers, knocked down to Wileeena Cattle Co, Dingo.

Brian Pastures Research Station, Gayndah, received $828 for its Brahman cows, which were knocked down for 144c/kg. Trade heifers from Hopewill Grazing, Biggenden peaked at 154c/kg or $659/hd.

On February 13 agents offered up 1996 head at the Burnett Livestock and Realty Annual All Breeds Steers Sale. The quality of cattle was good, but dry conditions dampened demand.

A pen of No.2 steers from Brian Pastures Research Station won their class and sold for 145c/kg or $604/hd.
Record entries for Sydney Feature Show as NSW breeders celebrate 50th anniversary

by Lindel GREGGERY

Entries for the 2014 Sydney Brahman Feature Show have exceeded all expectations, with 136 head from 33 exhibitors set to enter the ring on Saturday, April 12.

The Feature Show commemorates 50 years since the first exhibition of New South Wales bred Brahmans in Sydney and has attracted entries from as far away as Georgetown in Far North Queensland, Central Queensland and western NSW.

As well as championship glory, studmasters will be competing for a bumper prize pool, with $20,000 in cash and prizes donated by Dr George Jacobs, Mogul stud, Maclean, NSW.

Class winners will receive $500, with payments for placings down to fifth. The stellar line-up will be judged by Matt McCamley, Lancefield M stud, Eulogie, Dululu.

Mogul stud manager Glen Pfeffer said the largest turnout was for the bull 24-30 months class which had attracted 15 head.

“We’ve also got two pure Brahman steers from Col Tink at Dubbo entered into the led steer judging,” Mr Pfeffer said.

There is also an action packed few days of social events planned to celebrate this breed milestone.

The festivities kick off on the night of Friday, April 11, with the chance to mingle over free drinks and food on the judging lawns. The event is sponsored by the Eastern and Western NSW branches of the ABBA and bookings are required for catering purposes, via ABBA head office.

On Saturday night, April 12, all the tales from the day’s judging can be recounted at a Brahman Feature Show Dinner at the Novotel Ibis Olympic Park. An exciting special guest speaker will entertain dinner guests over a three-course meal. Tickets are $70 (food only) and need to be pre-booked through the ABBA.

The winner of the 2014 Brahman Feature Show Acquisitive Art Competition will be announced at the dinner. The competition offers $2500 first prize for the best Brahman themed artwork in any medium, and the winning piece will be purchased by the ABBA and donated to the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW.

A $250 public choice award will also be offered, the winner of which will be announced at a morning tea in the Brahman shed on Sunday, April 13.

Sydney Royal Easter Show 1965
Grand Champion - Cherokee 926.
Record entries for Sydney Feature Show as NSW breeders celebrate 50th anniversary

The event is sponsored by Leader Animal Products and for catering purposes please contact the ABBA to book. Competition artworks and photos will be on display in the hospitality area of the Brahman shed.

Mr Pfeffer said entry forms for the competitions were available from the ABBA.

LONG HISTORY CELEBRATED
The first NSW-bred Brahmans were paraded at Sydney Royal Easter Show in 1964, an event clearly remembered by ABBA Life Member and principal of NSW's longest established stud, Dr George Jacobs.

The stud was founded by his step-father Albert Scheinberg in 1959 at Riverstone, near Sydney, and was registered as Brahmin Society Pty Ltd before being renamed Mogul stud in 1968.

George was a 14-year-old boy when he paraded the first NSW-bred Brahman bull in Sydney, in 1964. Just two years later he had the honour of parading the first NSW-bred champion in Sydney, AS Princess Julie-Ann.

He recalls that the 1964 Royal Easter Show was judged by Qld Santa Gertrudis breeder George Greenup, and that the best Brahman exhibit was Cherokee LA Cougar, shown by Qld plough manufacturers P.A. and R.I. Yeomans.
“The first Brahmans were shown in Sydney in 1963 and the cattle came from Cherokee stud,” Dr Jacobs said.

Mogul stud has been awarded more than 100 championships in Sydney over the years, first exhibiting at the original showground at Paddington and, since 1998, at the new Homebush venue.

“In 1971 we showed the grand champion females at Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne and this was an enormous highlight because they were all different animals. The win was extra special because 1971 was the 25th anniversary of the ABBA.”

The stud’s Brisbane champion that year was Mogul Miss Indy Manso, and her descendents will be in the ring at the Sydney Feature Show in 2014.

Dr Jacobs said this year also marked the 30th year that Glen Pfeffer had been manager of Mogul.

“The first Sydney Show with Glen as manager was in 1984 and we won the grand champion bull with Mr Sir Arauto C Speckles and the grand champion cow with Miss Cindy 8, parading all four junior and senior champions.”

Mogul is also the only Brahman stud to win a championship in Sydney’s RAS steer and carcase show, in 1971.

One of the most important early NSW exhibitors and promoters of Brahman cattle, from 1967 onwards, was Michael Lytton-Hitchins, Kyabra stud. At times Michael was the only exhibitor but when there was competition he was able to win championships. After he was forced to withdraw from showing due to an accident, many Kyabra cattle won championships for other breeders. Sydney Show exhibitors still compete for the Kyabra Trophy, which Mr Lytton-Hitchins donated to encourage Brahman showing in NSW.
Record entries for Sydney Feature Show as NSW breeders celebrate 50th anniversary

Another highlight for the breed in Sydney was the 2003 Brahman Feature Show, judged by Queenslander Brett Kirk, Hazelton stud. The Feature Show attracted 35 bulls and 28 females, with Apis Creek Alby sashed grand champion bull and Kenrol Serendipity sashed grand champion female. Bizzy Brahmans was the most successful exhibitor.

Bizzy, owned by Michael and Elizabeth Fahey, Nettle Creek, Copmanhurst, is another NSW stud with a long connection to Sydney Royal Easter Show. Elizabeth Fahey (nee Innes) remembers parading cattle there in 1969, leading bulls from her parent’s Walla stud, Gin Gin, Qld.

However Michael Fahey, who originally worked for Walla, and Elizabeth’s sisters Patricia and Carolyn (who later went on to be ABBA president) first paraded Walla cattle there in 1967. Over the years, Walla cattle were awarded numerous bull and female championships in Sydney.

Mrs Fahey said the interstate dipping regime, which required cattle to be repeatedly plunge dipped over 10 days at Wallangarra on the Qld/NSW border, was a real deterrent for Qld exhibitors.

She recounted how one of her parent’s bulls, Walla Banjo, became seriously ill after swallowing dip and did not eat for seven days while at the showgrounds. His unusual remedy, prescribed by a Sydney vet, was to be administered beer and whiskey “for heart and appetite recovery”.

“He started eating and drinking on the morning of judging. Unfortunately the start of judging was delayed for a few hours, so by the time judging had finished and he had done a few laps of the ring he was feeling a bit dizzy and was ready for a sleep,” Mrs Fahey said.
Despite his ordeal, Walla Banjo went on to claim the grand championship in Sydney in 1969.

“The Sydney papers got hold of the story and there were jokes and cartoons in the papers about the drunk bull. Thankfully, he survived and all was well.”

Another stud to do well in Sydney in the early days was (the late) Ron and Barbara Bauer’s Grampians stud which was then based at Ipswich, Qld and is now located at Greendale, Tambo. At the 1973 Sydney Royal Easter Show Grampians was awarded six championships under the eye of judge Graham McCamley, Tartrus, Marlborough, who was ABBA president at the time.

The stud’s senior and grand champion bull and best exhibit, Grampians Wee Jim De Manso, was by foundation sire Waverley James De Manso, and weighed “2050 lbs” (932kg).

Mr McCamley said Wee Jim was the biggest bull on the ground in Sydney and was “a tremendous animal – what we want in Australia”.

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At the 1973 Sydney Show Grampians also paraded the junior and reserve champion junior bulls, the junior champion female, the reserve champion senior female, and placed first and second in the Sire’s Progeny class.
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Record entries for Sydney Feature Show as NSW breeders celebrate 50th anniversary

Ron’s son Graham, assisted by future wife Rosslyn Bruce, also claimed glory by winning the All Breeds Herdsmen’s Competition, contested against 375 beef and dairy studs. It was the first time a Qld stud had won this award in Sydney.

John Park, who was the founding chairman of the NSW Branch of the ABBA in 1969, is another with fond memories of the Royal Easter Show. Now 82, Mr Park still attends the Brahman judging every year in Sydney, despite being out of the industry for many decades.

He started Oxley Brahman stud at Stratheden, Tamworth in 1966 after buying foundation animals from Tartrus.

Mr Park said his proudest moment as a Brahman breeder was exhibiting the grand champion carcase and the winning pen of two steers on the hoof at the Gunnedah Show and Sale, “about 40 years ago”.

Other members of the NSW Branch in 1969 were secretary Bob Berry and committee members Peter Loudon, Jock Robertson and Lal Trenerry. This very active group was instrumental in organising some ground breaking events in the early days, which set a solid foundation for the success of the Brahman breed in NSW.

Over the years there have been many NSW bred cattle that have taken out championship awards at Sydney.

The Bizzy prefix has won a number of championships and most successful exhibitor titles over the years in the NSW capital. One of its most successful outings was in 2002 when Innes Fahey, while exhibiting the Bizzy show team, won the national final of the Young Auctioneers’ competition. That year the stud paraded the senior champion bull, senior and reserve senior females, and 13-month-old Bizzy Crissie claimed the junior and grand champion female title and best Brahman exhibit award.

“Crissie went on to be the senior champion female at the Sydney Feature Show in 2003 and returned in 2004 to again win senior and grand champion female and supreme Brahman exhibit,” Mrs Fahey said.

Local exhibitors will be battling their interstate rivals at the Royal Easter Show on April 12, truly showcasing how far the breed has come in the past 50 years.
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  Dr George Jacobs
- Australian Brahman Breeders Association Ltd
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- Bizzy Brahman Stud
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ENQUIRIES: GLEN PFEFFER 0418 452 204
Young Brahman breeders and enthusiasts have demonstrated their excellent parading and judging skills at recent NSW shows.

Luke Allen of Diddine Brahman Stud, Lismore, Sophie Bulmer of Mountana Brahman Stud, Kyogle, Jesse Joseph of Mogul Brahman Stud, Maclean and Madi Riley from Dyrabba have all been chosen to compete in the NSW State Paraders Finals at next month’s Sydney Royal Easter Show.

All of these successful young handlers were parading Brahman cattle at the Group 1 zone finals that were held at Bangalow Show.

Jesse Joseph and Shannon Koche from Hebel took out the top 2 places of the Junior Judging zone finals that were held at the Lismore Show and will also compete in the State finals in Sydney. All five competitors have regularly attended the Casino Bos Indicus Youth Round Up where their parading and judging skills have been honed.

Luke works for Diddine Stud at Lismore and has recently registered his own Brahman Stud under the Springhaven banner. Luke will be working and showing cattle for the Diddine stud who will have a large team at the Brahman feature in Sydney.

Jesse, who works for the Mogul Brahman stud, represented the Maclean Show Society at the Zone 1 paraders finals at Bangalow Show. He was selected to compete in the Group 1 zone finals of Junior Judging after his win at the Casino Bos Indicus youth Roundup. At the completion of the Roundup weekend, Jesse was awarded the Brahman Trophy for the most successful competitor. Jesse will have a busy week in Sydney competing in both State Finals and working with Mogul’s large Brahman team for the feature show.

Sophie Bulmer of the Mountana Brahman Stud at Kyogle represented the Kyogle Show Society at the Group 1 zone parading finals when she was chosen to compete in Sydney. Sophie has been successfully showing her Brahmans at all the NSW North Coast shows. At the North Coast National in October last year, Sophie and her bull Mountana Percy (pictured) won champion Rural Youth male beef exhibit.

The Eastern NSW Branch of the ABBA is very proud to be associated with these young people and wish them all the very best in Sydney.
North west Queensland Brahman breeder Rodger Jefferis was delighted be invited to revisit Colombia in November 2013, as guest speaker at the Colombian Federation of Cattle Farmers’ (FEDEGAN) Conference.

Mr Jefferis previously visited Colombia in 2006 as president of the ABBA, leading a delegation to the 13th World Brahman Congress.

The two day FEDEGAN conference in Monteria assembled speakers from the United States, Brazil, Argentina, France, Uruguay and Australia who addressed a 700-strong crowd of beef producers and industry representatives.

The conference shone the spotlight on the world beef market, with Colombians keen to increase their share of beef exports.

Colombia has a population of 40 million and is the fourth largest beef herd in Latin America, behind Brazil, Argentina and Mexico. It runs 23.5 million head of cattle, 80 percent of which are Brahman.

Mr Jefferis said he was invited to address the conference because the Colombians were impressed by the Australian Brahman’s ability to meet a range of market specifications, including the European Union.

He shared his own experiences as an export producer as well as information about herd performance initiatives such as the Brahman Beef Information Nucleus (BIN) Project.

Colombia has the world’s fastest growing beef herd, which has increased by 30 percent over the past decade. Because of this rapid rise in production, the Colombian beef industry engaged a consultant for the past two years to advise on how the industry could better capitalize on export opportunities.

Mr Jefferis said one of the current big issues in world beef production was meat safety.

“Meat safety is by far the deciding factor in export markets, much more than meat tenderness. There’s been too much focus on Brahman’s tenderness in our domestic market, which is really a non issue,” he said.

“None of the export markets discriminate against hump. As the population in importing countries becomes more affluent, we’ll see more emphasis on the health aspects of beef as consumers look for meat that is free from HGBPs, antibiotics and chemicals.”

He said Colombia had the ideal geography, rainfall and access to affordable labour to supply “clean and green” grassfed beef to the world.

Colombia exported $US 62.6 million of beef in 2012 and in 2013 exported $US 142.4 million of beef between January and September alone. China, South Korea, Egypt and the European Union present the greatest opportunities for Colombian exports, subject to access protocols.

“The Colombian beef industry is still trying to get clear of disease and have made good progress, with their herd now Foot and Mouth Disease vaccine free,” Mr Jefferis said.

A survey carried out by Proexport Colombia recommended that the country needed to develop a serious “country brand” to expand its market share. Other recommendations were the need to modernize abattoirs and introduce better beef husbandry and animal welfare practices.
The Wilangi Invitation Brahman Sale held at Charters Towers in late November achieved the rare 2013 distinction of increasing both its average price and clearance rate compared to the previous year.

The outstanding, sizable offering of grey Brahman stud sires and herd bulls presented by sale principal vendors Ron & Bev White and Robert & Mandy White of Wilangi Stud, Marlborough, together with their invited vendor studs El Ja, Raglan, Wallace and Viva was the subject of many compliments from sale bidders and buyers drawn from as far away as Rockhampton, Calliope, Dingo, Longreach, Nebo, St Lawrence, Bowen, Atherton Tablelands, Middlemount, Julia Creek, Corfield, Proserpine, etc. The renowned sale event, in its 26th year, is the nation’s leading grey Brahman sale selection of quality bulls, this year grossing $715,000 for 179 bulls and selling to a top price of $18,500. Vendors and buyers were delighted with the result in a year that season and market conditions in the main buyer drawing areas for the sale were the worst experienced for many years. “We really appreciate the support of those cattle producers who attended, some regulars and some new, from such a wide area,” Ron White said, “and to record a 98% clearance and increase the average price by 3% is very pleasing. It didn’t matter how tough the year was, we were always going to bring our best bulls to the north and meet the market, just as we’ve been doing since 1988.”

Sale agents McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing and Queensland Rural, with their auctioneers Ken McCaffrey, Troy Trevor and Brad Passfield, kept the sale flowing freely and had the large offering sold in just over 4 hours. “It was an excellent, strong quality line of bulls from start to finish, with...
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*While every species has not been tested four major species have. See label for details.

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studmasters and commercial cattle producers all able to find the style of bull they were looking for,” sale co-ordinator Ken McCaffrey said.

The $18,500 sale topper Wallace Mr Licorice was the first Premier Select Sire in the draft of Stewart & Kerry Wallace’s Wallace Brahms. The stylish 798kg, high quality, milk tooth son of Wallace Houston Manso was selected by Nerida Luck for her family’s Junee Pastoral Company, Dingo.

Early in the sale Acton Land & Cattle Company bid $16,000 to secure Wilangi Dravid, a 950kg, well grown, strong boned sire of superb breeding. He is by El Ja Buster Manso out of a full Hudgins Wilangi cow by JDH Datapack Manso and carried the equal biggest EMA scan of the sale at 146 sqcm. Tom Acton also purchased another two impressive young El Ja Buster Manso sons from Wilangi in his draft of 7 bulls. At $9,500 he selected Wilangi Dale, a top quality, long bodied bull of great sire appeal, and at $7,000 early in the sale, his purchase of Wilangi Danny, an 800kg, 26 month old sire prospect, bred out of Quiz/Boswick cross cow, was a bargain.

Astute Charters Towers business operators and cattle producers John & Jan Nelson of Herbert Hall Enterprises were keen on a strong muscled and masculine dark grey sire, El Ja Horrie Manso offered by Les & Helen Donald, El Ja Stud, Theodore. They bid strongly to $15,000 to win an active bidding battle for the 997kg son of El Ja Romeo Manso.

Alan Williams, Riverside Pastoral Co, Nebo returned to the sale and gave the offering a thorough inspection the day before sale day. He backed his judgement in the auction ring outlaying an average of $7,100 for five sires. His top purchase at $12,000 was the 770kg, 2yo Wallace Mr Lawson, a dark grey, strong carcass quality bull by Wallace Houston Manso.

Ron & Bev White of Wilangi Stud took the opportunity to invest in three new herd sires at the sale. Included in their purchases at $12,000 were Raglan Mr Roferty, a 142 sqcm EMA, 29 month old, correct sire type which topped the draft of Andrew & Roxanne Olive’s Raglan Stud. Having been around stud sale rings for many decades the Whites also recognised exceptional value in Lot 3, El Ja Hadley Manso, and were pleased to secure this big, strong, 992kg bull, showing stylish sire quality and beef performance, for only $7,000.

Wilangi Sale increase results

Robert Flute (left), Chatfield, Richmond, a regular buyer of high quality grey sires at the Wilangi Sale invested in a powerful line of 6 bulls averaging $5,085. He discusses the excellent sale result with Tony Brown, Pioneer Park Brahms, Mackay.
It’s not often you see herd bulls sell into the five figure range, however the Wallace Brahman’s youngster 64/12 created a lot of attention from noted commercial cattle producers, before selling to the Kime family, Amaroo Partnership, Nebo for $11,000. The Kimes also selected another attractively muscled and long bodied Wallace bull by the same Yenda Rambler sire for $8,500.

The 904kg, upstanding, well bred, dark grey sire Viva Whitney was the top seller of AJ & Pam Davison’s draft from Viva Stud. He was purchased at $9,000 by Acton Land & Cattle Company. The Davisons themselves purchased a well credentialed sire, Wilangi Denton, for $7,000. This 26 month old, 880kg sire with 146 sqcm EMA exhibited outstanding body volume and muscle expression and is another of the eye catching El Ja Buster Manso sons. The Whites’ investment in this El Ja sire at this sale a few years ago for their Wilangi Stud has proven a wise one, with his seven 2013 sale sons averaging $7,645.

Repeat sale buyer Rob Flute, Chatfield, Richmond again shopped well at the sale putting together a tremendous line of six sires averaging $5,083. At $8,000 Raglan Mr Quade, a high quality, 25 month old, polled sire scaling 935kg, the heaviest two tooth bull of the sale, was his top purchase. Iain and Anneli Day, Liddesdale Station, Nebo also selected a top quality draft of 5 bulls averaging $4,800, all out of the Wallace sale team. Clermont district graziers Clive & Mary Albert of Mt Donald Station attended the sale and invested in six good quality, strong beef type bulls averaging $4,333, while six bulls will go back to Ross Cullen, Marlua Station, Calliope. The Dennis family, Twin Hills Cattle Company, Clermont were in the bidding action on quality bulls, selecting 7 at a $4,000 average.

Northern cattle producers among the buyers at the sale included Sheahan Land & Cattle Company (14 bulls); Camm Agricultural Group (12 bulls); Blennerhassett family (10 bulls); Mann Beef Pty Ltd (9 bulls); Tom Sheahan & Company (7 bulls); Hillgrove Pastoral Company (6 bulls); Laurie Blacklock & family (6 bulls); Frank Blacklock & family (5 bulls); Hewitt Enterprises (5 bulls) and Lestree Downs Pastoral Company (6 bulls).

Agents: Queensland Rural and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing.

SALE RESULTS

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Damien Freney (left), SBB Rockhampton discussed the Wilangi Invitation Brahman Stud line-up of bulls with buyers Edwin & Laura Dennis, Twin Hills, Clermont.
The exceptional, strong sale result achieved by selling agents Geaney’s and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing for their Big Country Brahman Sale at Charters Towers mid February provided the central and northern Australian beef cattle industry, and the stud cattle industry of Queensland, with a very positive indicator to start 2014.

Despite industry descriptions of the parlous state of the cattle industry in the north, the two selling agents pulled together a large buying bench of great substance from centres as far away as the Northern Territory, Longreach, Atherton Tablelands, Dawson Callide, Central Burnett, Cloncurry, Rockhampton, Jericho, St Lawrence and Nebo, to support the impressive line of top quality red and grey Brahman bulls they had catalogued for the sale.

The Big Country Brahman Sale is the leading stud cattle sale of northern Australia and, in this year’s sale, Geaney’s and McCaffrey’s were confident they had an offering of bulls better than any previously submitted for sale in the north. “We had an outstanding selection of bulls from many leading studs of the Brahman breed, so under the conditions and circumstances leading up to the sale it was a huge challenge to get the right buyers here to assess the yarding,” Ken McCaffrey of McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing said, “we knew if we could entice the buyers then they would respond to the opportunity of investing in these highly credentialed stud sires and herd bulls.” We had numerous comments from bull buyers complimenting the quality of the whole sale draft,” he added.
Top Price Bull **CAMBIL ROCCO MANSO 4144** sold at Big Country Sale 2014 to Brett Nobbs from NCC Brahmans for $20,500

Lot 225 Cambil Rocco Manso 4144

Thank you to Brett Nobbs, NCC Brahmans “Inverrio” Duaringa

*Sincere thanks to Big Country Sale purchasers and underbidders, and special thanks to sale agents McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing and Geaney’s Livestock.*

Lot 227 Cambil Parker sold for $6,000

Lot 198 Cambil Slater sold for $8,000

**Paddock Bulls Available for Sale**

**Cambil Brahmans**

Lawson Camm
07 4945 5939  0438 461 233
Mt Julian Proserpine Qld 4800
Email: cambilbrahmans@bigpond.com
The strength of the sale result was evident in its comparison to figures from 2013. The sale gross rose 16.5% to $994,050, bull averages rose 20%, the sale clearance rose 10% to an outstanding 95%, and 8 more bulls were sold this year. The selling agents said that auctioneers worked hard to achieve optimum prices on the sale days, however buyers were tentative in their bidding to start, but soon recognised the value available in the quality and genetic selection on offer, and bid confidently to secure their purchases. Geaney’s Principal, Jim Geaney, said the Big Country Sale has a rock solid reputation built on high standards, so it always attracts a large core of leading and progressive cattle producers who recognise the benefits in buying their bulls at this sale.

REDS TO $16,000 ON FIRST DAY

The $16,000 red section sale topper came at Lot 10 on the sale’s first day. David & Julie McCamley of Lancefield Brahman, Palmalmal, Dingo secured the top price for Lancefield D Winslow, an outstanding polled sire of 28 months, by Samari Plains Watson. This robust sire type of strong bone and muscling scaled 860kg and was purchased by Mac & Gayle Shann, Cantaur Park, Clermont. At sale time, the Shanns were returning from a successful trip to the Tamworth Classic Horse Sale where they sold two fillies, and they relayed their bids to the sale ring via Mac’s father and mother, Harry & Sue Shann. One lot later the Keough family, Welcome Downs Cattle Co., Einasleigh bid to $12,000 for Lancefield D Willoughby, an 868kg, polled sire of excellent temperament and beef quality.

Popular local red Brahman studmasters Brian & Glenda Kirkwood, Somerview Stud, Charters Towers had a number of bulls sell in the top echelon of prices, including at $15,500, Somerview Jackpot. This Lancefield D Navada sired, polled bull was purchased by Paul & Debbie Herrod, KLC Trading Trust, Katherine, N.T. The Herrods also purchased Somerview Marcus for $7,000, another high
Big Country overcomes industry conditions

quality, polled sire from the Kirkwoods. Highly regarded cattlemen David Dennis, Walthum, Clermont and Alan Williams, Riverside, Nebo also selected attractive beef style Somerview polled bulls outlaying $9,500 and $6,500 respectively.

One of the sale’s long term vendors Brian & Cindy Hughes, Lanes Creek Georgetown found strong demand for their team of bulls. Their draft topped at $14,000 for Lanes Creek Shotgun, an impressive soft, well muscled, polled son of NCC Shogun that weighed 726kg at 26 months. He was purchased by the Brownson family of Burdekin Brahman Stud, Charters Towers. The strong bodied, heavy muscled sire Lanes Creek Slingshot was a $10,000 purchase out of the draft by a partnership of Brett Nobbs, NCC Brahmans, Duaringa and Clinton & Trevor Geddes, Three D Stud, Rockhampton, while Michael Trout, Bogandilla Brahmans, Edge Hill selected Lanes Creek Federation for $7,500 from the Hughes’ team.

The big upstanding, 976kg, light pigment bull Ooline Maxwell, a son of NCC Springbok, made $13,000 early in the sale, selling to John Atkinson, Atkinson & Co., Glenavon, Yaamba. This strong boned, square bodied bull scanned an EMA of 150 sqcm, the biggest of the whole sale offering. First time sale vendors David Dunn & family, Somerton Brahmans, St Lawrence sold two good red sires at the sale. Their team leader Somerton Eric, a long bodied bull of 896kg and 142 sqcm EMA, made $6,500, selling to Terry Randell of Crinum Stud, Tieri.

Pat Hills, Hills Grazing, Theodore attended the sale and selected two attractive, polled sires, each at $6,000, from the Lancefield D Stud and Whitaker Stud drafts. Providing strength to the sale bidding in the red section and taking home excellent lines of bulls were the Jack family, Fernlea Farming, Brandon; Heelan family, Clermont; Parker family, Aramac; Callcott family, Ellenvale Station, Charters Towers; Pajingo Pastoral Co., Charters Towers and Pedracini Grazing, Collinsville.

$20,500 TOPS QUALITY GREYS

The beautifully bred, strong sire character bull Cambil Rocco Manso sold at $20,500 for the Camm family, Cambil Brahmans, Proserpine to top the grey bull section. He was purchased by Brett Nobbs, Nobbs Cattle Co, Duaringa who admired his width across the topline, natural muscling, masculinity and overall volume at 26

David McCamley (right), Lancefield Brahmans, Palmalomal, Dingo thanks Kelvin Maloney, Kenilworth Brahmans, Mt Coolon for his purchase of poll sire Lancefield D Eldridge at $14,000.

The big, upstanding Lancefield D Willoughby was purchased for $12,000 by the Keough Family’s Welcome Downs Cattle Co, Einasleigh. After the sale Julie McCamley, Palmalomal, Dingo introduced Willoughby to Sophie & Bella (back) and April & Harry (front) Keough.

Paul Herrod, KLC Trading Trust, Ponderosa Stud, Katherine, N.T. travelled to the Big Country Brahman Sale and was very impressed with the quality and selection of the offering. He purchased 9 outstanding red and grey sires at an average of $8,835 including Lot 47, Somerview Marcus.
months of age. This two tooth bull scanned a 142 sqcm EMA and looks a complete package of breed and beef quality. The previous lot, Lanes Creek Westcott Manso, a 2yo son of JDH Wellington Manso and bred out of a daughter of JDH Mr Elmo Manso, also fell to the bid of Brett Nobbs when he paid $9,000 for this potential packed youngster.

David & Julie McCamley of Lancefield Brahman were also in the high price action with their team of greys. Their draft topper at $18,000 was Lancefield D Expedition, a superb son of JDH Mr Echo Manso weighing 788kg at 26 months and showing outstanding natural carcass qualities. This topliner was selected by discerning bull buyer Alan Williams, Riverside Pastoral Co., Nebo, one of five outstanding bulls he purchased at the sale at an average of $8,900. The Lancefield D draft lead bull Lancefield D Eldridge, a long bodied, 906kg, poll, scanning a 148 sqcm EMA and by the same sire, JDH Mr Echo Manso, was a $14,000 purchase for Kelvin & Margaret Maloney, Kenilworth, Mt Coolon.

Andrew & Anna McCamley, Lancefield A Brahman, Capella also achieved a $14,000 sale for Lancefield A Edgar, a grandson of Echo that, at 28 months weighed 949kg and scanned an EMA of 149 sqcm. He was purchased by Paul & Debbie Herrod, KLC Trading Trust, Katherine, N.T. who were impressed with the bull’s weight for age, muscularity and easy doing qualities. The Herrods shopped well right throughout the sale after giving the yarding a thorough inspection, and took 9 bulls back to the Northern Territory. Their tremendous line of strong sires averaged them $8,835. Other high quality grey bulls in their purchases were at $10,000 Lancefield D Rayner, and the strong pigment, attractive beef sire Elrose B Bling, a son of Lancefield S Branson offered by Brooke Jefferis, Elrose B Stud, Cloncurry.

Dan & Sally Beauchamp, Allendale, Ingham have a good eye for a top bull and purchased five bulls at the sale. Their top purchase at $10,500 was Carinya Radford, an impressive, broad headed sire of exceptional natural muscling that topped the draft of John Kirk & Co., Carinya Stud, Gayndah. First time sale vendors Geoff & Scott Angel, Glengarry Stud, Kunwarara presented an appealing line of six grey sires which were the centre

Big Country overcomes industry conditions
of strong attention from cattle producers. Their draft sold well, topping at $9,500 when Rodger Jefferis, Elrose Enterprises, Cloncurry purchased Glengarry Quamby, an attractively bred, heavy muscled sire of good breed character. Elrose also outlaid $8,000 for Raglan Mr Saturn, a poll of strong muscling that topped the draft of Andrew & Roxanne Olive’s Raglan Stud.

The Keough’s of Welcome Downs were also in the market on the better grey sires and secured excellent value for money when they paid $9,000 for Lancefield D Ellington, a beautiful bodied, natural beef style bull, once again by a son of JDH Mr Echo Manso.

Clint & Robyn Whitaker, Whitaker Brahmans, Mundubbera returned to the sale for the second year with impressive sons of their ABBA Brahman Sire Of The Year, Eureka Marksman. They recorded $9,000 sales for two of his sons, Whitaker Mr Bean, selling to Central Burnett grazier Harold Dwyer and Whitaker Mr 3007 selling to David Dennis & family, Walthum, Clermont.

Michael Clark, Ibis Creek, Mt Coolon shopped well at the sale selecting a line of three quality, well bred, grey bulls, two from Lanes Creek and another from Radella at an average of $6,165. Ben & Julie Pini, Pini Grazing, Nebo also selected three excellent greys paying to a top of $8,500 for Cambil Slater, a long and strong carcass quality bull out of a Datapack cowline.

Among the buying strength operating in the grey bull section were Keda Anning, Reedy Springs, Pentland; Parker Family, Clermont, Patrick Sheahan, Tom Sheahan & Co., Ingham and Brodie & Co., Cloncurry.

**HEIFERS SELL TO $5,250**

The Big Country Brahman Sale’s small stud heifer section topped at $5,250 for Maru Mya Manso, a 16 month old grey daughter of JDH Mr Echo Manso. She was purchased by Garry Hiette, Barambah Brahmans, Darts Creek. The top red heifer, F+T Renee, a poll of excellent quality, was a $4,000 purchase by Brett Nobbs, NCC Stud, Duaringa.

Agents: Geaney’s and McCaffrey’s Australian Livestock Marketing.

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**BIG COUNTRY BRAHMAN SALE 2014 FACTS & FIGURES**

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**TOP GREYS BIG COUNTRY BULLS**

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**BIG COUNTRY LEADING VENDOR AVERAGES (3 OR MORE BULLS)**

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Quality reds for sale at Erderei stud dispersal

Studmasters and commercial cattlemen have the chance to secure quality red genetics, backed by 30 years of Brahman breeding, at the Erderei stud dispersal sale in Roma on March 18.

Erderei stud principal Reiner Vresk, 4 Mile, Yuleba, is offering his entire red Brahman herd, which will be presented as a run of pedigree cattle during the regular Tuesday Store Sale at Roma Saleyards.

On offer will be 14 cows and calves, 13 cows, 10 first calf heifers, two stud sires and three herd bulls.

Most of the calves are by the stud’s resident polled sire Tarramba Tennessee, who will also go up for auction.

“He’s been putting some beautiful calves on the ground that are absolute corkers,” Mr Vresk said.

“A high proportion of his calves are polls and there are a few prospective sires by him in the draft.”

Tarramba Tennessee has been running with the sale heifers and cows, and all females will be pregnancy tested three weeks prior to the sale.

The cows with calves at foot have been mated to homebred sire Erderei Red Tux, whose breeding goes back to the famed CMT Tuxpeno 308/0 (imp). Red Tux, who is also up for sale in Roma, was “a pretty handy bull that has put some nice females on the ground for us,” Mr Vresk said.

Many of the Erderei females are by Chudley Little Bronco, an “easy fleshing bull with a terrific temperament”, who has had a huge influence on the stud.

The Erderei stud was formed close to 30 years ago by Erich and Desley Vresk and their son Reiner, with the stud prefix derived from the first few letters of each family member’s name. The enterprise relocated to 4 Mile, Yuleba in 1996, where Reiner took over as stud principal.

The Vresks originally operated a Droughtmaster stud at Sunnyside, Curra and bought their first three Brahman cows and calves from the Gympie Brahman Female Sale when Droughtmasters proved hard to source. Some of their early females were purchased from Grampians/Amaroo, Wandarri and Silver Mine studs, with Chudley genetics playing a large part in more recent years.

“I would like to make special mention of Graham Bauer and Rob Walker who showed much kindness and shared wisdom with me over the years,” Mr Vresk said.

“Graham Bauer, through his generosity, gave me access to some great cow lines and went above and beyond the call of duty to help me.

“Rob Walker gave me my start in the industry. I worked for him for many years and he had a great influence on me as a Brahman breeder as well as being a true friend. I am also very grateful to my parents for all their support during the highs and lows.”

Over the years Erderei has sold bulls at Roma Tropical Breeds Sale and females at the Laidley Female Sale, as well as achieving good paddock sales. The prefix has also attracted its share of broad ribbons in the show ring.

“In the early days one of our cows, Erderei Empress Everado, collected 16 broad ribbons, and more recently Erderei Chemille was the reserve junior champion at the Toowoomba Royal Show, about four years ago,” Mr Vresk said.

The stud also had great success at the 2013 Wallumbilla Show where their six-month-old heifer Erderei Josephine cleaned up in the ribbon tally.

Pregnancy test results will be available at the sale and all lots will be vaccinated with 3 germ blood and free to move into tick areas.

For more details about the sale contact Steve Goodhew, PJH Livestock, Roma on 0428 305 810 or Reiner Vresk on 0428 235 305.
The Australian Cattle Veterinarians (ACV) has recently released revised standards for minimum scrotal circumference to pass a Veterinary Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation (VBBSE).

The revised standards have resulted from recent advances in understanding as to what constitutes normal scrotal size in the Australian herd based on the "Bull Power" project. This project involved analysis of ~260,000 scrotal circumference measurements that had been recorded with BREEDPLAN between 2000 and 2012 across 13 common breeds of Australian beef bulls, including Brahman. Scrotal circumference measurements were mostly taken when bulls were within 250–750 kg live weight and 300–750 days of age.

WHY MEASURE SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE?

Measuring scrotal circumference can indicate the likelihood that a bull has reached puberty, and whether testicular development is within the normal range. Scrotal circumference assessment is an important part of a VBBSE, which is used to assess whether bulls have normal reproductive function prior to making selection and management decisions.

Scrotal circumference is:

• A good indicator of daily sperm production especially in young bulls, which is fairly constant per gram of testis
• A highly repeatable measure (with appropriate technique) and highly heritable (30–45%)  
• Correlated with sperm motility and morphology. However, these are independently assessed as part of a routine VBBSE
• Genetically correlated with earlier age at puberty in female relatives
• Genetically correlated with earlier return to cyclicity after calving in female relatives within tropically adapted cattle, and especially Bos indicus cattle

VBBSE STANDARDS FOR SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE

Previous VBBSE standards listed simple minimum cut-off points for scrotal circumference based on breed and age. Historically, bulls with a scrotal circumference greater than the cut off were scored with a tick for the scrotal circumference component of the VBBSE, and those below with a cross.

In recent times, the VBBSE has moved from a pass/fail model to a description of risk with a T (Tick), Q (Qualified) and X (Cross) system being used to acknowledge that there are shades of grey and that assessment of risk is not always absolute.

FINDINGS FROM BULL POWER PROJECT

The main findings from the recent analyses include:

• Live weight appears to be a superior reference point in comparison to age as a measure for assessing acceptable scrotal circumference in young bulls. Age can also be used, but the variation at any age is higher because of nutrition effects on weight per day of age.
• Scrotal circumference x weight relationships have the same pattern in most breeds. The range across breeds of average scrotal circumference at any weight between 250-750 kg is 5–7 cm. Temperate breeds tend to have larger scrotal circumference at the same weight than tropically-adapted breeds; some of this is related to the lower width to length ratio of Bos indicus testes.
• Across the 13 breeds included in the study, Australian beef bulls have been categorised into 5 groups that, at the same live weight, have similar average scrotal circumference. Brahmans are in a group on their own
• Small differences between Red and Grey Brahmans were insufficient to consider having separate standards for each.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There is no clear point at which a scrotal circumference indicates an increased risk to fertility. Thus, scrotal circumference needs to be interpreted along with other elements of the physical examination, and with crush side semen and morphology results if available. Bulls with a scrotal circumference that is not within "normal limits" should be viewed with suspicion unless it can be shown by other means that this does not pose a risk.

Details of normal scrotal circumference in the Australian Brahman bull population are
ACV Release: Revised Minimum Scrotal Circumference Standards

provided in Figure 1. As a general principle, it is recommended that the minimum acceptable scrotal circumference is the bottom 5% value at any weight.

It should be noted that the minimum recommended is “bare minimum”. For example, bulls close to the minimum threshold are more likely to suffer from some of the problems associated with small scrotal circumference than bulls well above the threshold. Bull breeders may consider setting a higher scrotal circumference minimum for sale bulls than what is indicated by normal range.

Table 1 shows the data from Figure 1 in tabular form and provides a ready reckoner to the minimum acceptable scrotal circumference at a given live weight in Brahman bulls:

TABLE 1: MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE BY LIVE WEIGHT IN BRAHMAN BULLS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIVE WEIGHT (kg)</th>
<th>SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE (cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600</td>
<td>30.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700</td>
<td>32.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>800</td>
<td>33.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Acknowledging that it is not always possible to obtain live weights for bulls, Table 2 provides recommended minimum scrotal circumference thresholds for Brahman bulls in situations where live weight is unavailable. Again, these are the “bare minimum”.

TABLE 2: MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE BY AGE IN BRAHMAN BULLS (WHERE LIVE WEIGHT IS UNAVAILABLE)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGE (months)</th>
<th>SCROTAL CIRCUMFERENCE (cm)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above standards do not indicate that either puberty or sexual maturity has been reached; rather, they indicate normal minimum levels of testicular development as reflected in scrotal circumference. Separate evaluation of crush-side semen and or sperm morphology are required to confirm attainment of puberty and sexual maturity, with most bulls reaching puberty in a narrow range of 27 – 30 cm.

Figure 2 shows the percentage of bulls within each weight category that did not meet the recommended scrotal size standard.

Reference:
Australia Cattle Veterinarians, Veterinary Bull Breeding Soundness Evaluation, 2013

Correct application of a Barth tape.
BRAHMAN COMMERCIAL BREEDING

FEMALE SHOW & SALE
Tuesday, 15th April 2014  CQLX GRACEMERE

CLASSES
1. PTIC Heifers under 3 years of age - Vet Certificate essential
2. PTIC cows under 10 years of age - Vet Certificate essential
3. Cow & calves (under 10 years of age)
4. Yearling Heifers not more than 380kg (10 - 20 mths of age)
5. Weaner Heifers not more than 300kg (under 10 mths of age)

PRIZES  $1000 PER CLASS
1st : $500 + trophy • 2nd : $300 + trophy • 3rd : $200 + trophy
Champion Pen $500 + trophy • Reserve Champion Pen $300 + trophy

FOR ENQUIRIES, ENTRY CONDITIONS AND ENTRY FORMS CONTACT YOUR PREFERRED GRACEMERE SELLING AGENT OR ABBA 07 4927 7799

Elders - 4927 6122
Landmark - 4927 6188
RF Duncan & Co - 4933 4678
Brian Dawson Auctions - 0417 667 668
Fanning Rural Agencies - 4927 0558
Savage, Barker & Backhouse - 4927 1677
Ray White Livestock - 0427 184 875

ENTRY CONDITIONS  1. Pure bred Brahman of good quality. 2. Straight colour (reds and greys). 3. Entry fee $55 (inclusive GST) per pen. 4. 1/6 of gross to ABBA exclusive of GST. 5. All entries in the show and the sale in half deck lots. Weaners 18, yearlings 14, PTIC heifers 12, PTIC cows 10, cows and calves. 6. All entries to be effectively dehorned or polled. 7. All cattle for genuine sale. 8. Pre-treatment for tick clearance from CQLX Gracemere is optional but recommended. In the event of entries catalogued as pre-treated failing to clear the vendor will be liable for feeding and dipping charges. Two treatments are recommended. 9. All entries to be at the Gracemere Saleyards by 1.00pm Monday, April 14 and penned for judging by 2.00pm. 10. All classes to be sold open auction. 11. The committee reserves the right to exclude entries not considered to be of a satisfactory standard or consistent with the entry conditions from competition. Any entries so excluded shall be sold at the completion of the sale. 12. Classes 1, 2 & 3 may be in calf or have calves at foot to bulls of other breeds.
Cow, calf unit sizzles to $10,500 at Hamdenvale

A GOOD crowd was on hand to witness a great line-up of females at the Summer Sizzler Sale at Hamdenvale Brahmans at Simla last weekend.

Twenty lots of females sold for $72,000 to average $3612, and five semen lots sold for $8500 to average $1700.

Sale principal David Deguara was pleased with the attendance and result.

“Given the current economic climate and the fact that it has only just rained, with some areas still not receiving rain, all vendors were extremely pleased with the sale,” Mr Deguara said.

“We appreciate the fact that people recognise the value of obtaining good-quality females and are willing to travel to our sale to obtain some of the best Brahman genetics available.”

First into the ring, lot 1, Hamdenvale Courtney 468/9 with heifer calf at foot and in calf to JDH Roma Manso 713 set the Hamdenvale Summer Sizzler Heifer Sale alight, making $10,500 and selling to Emanuel and Josie Pace, Blue Water Hills Stud, Mackay.

The family added to their purchase later in the sale with a package of JDH Duke De Manso semen for $2000.

Matt Jones, Charters Towers, was successful in obtaining the JDH Modelo Manso 268/5 heifer, Hamdenvale Gemma 817/3, for $4500.

Mathews Jones, Charters Towers, was successful in obtaining the JDH Modelo Manso 268/5 heifer, Hamdenvale Gemma 817/3, for $4500.

Hamdenvale Bernadette 803/60, a full V8 heifer, was the first of a number of purchases for Andrew and Ketrina Baird at $6000. She was later joined by Hamdenvale Sapphire, Hamdenvale Erina, a PBF Lincoln Manso 47/8 daughter for $3750, and Hamdenvale Tayla 838/95, a JDH Duke De Manso daughter, for $4500. The Baird family also purchased semen in JDH Duke De Manso and JDH Roma Manso.

Repeat buyers Calvin and Genevieve Kelly purchased Hamdenvale Consuela, a polled daughter of Mr V8 51/6, to join their growing polled herd. They also picked up the first JDH Roma Manso 713/1 progeny to be sold in Australia.

Hamdenvale Arista was the first of a number of heifers purchased by Ivan Price for Keddstock Pty Ltd, Moongool, Yuleba. Hamdenvale Reflections, Hamdenvale Alana and Pioneer Park Tess later joined the Price team.

Damian Carroll commenced his venture into stud cattle with the purchase of Hamdenvale A Annalisa, a full JD Hudgins-bred heifer, for $4500. With excellent fertility traits, this heifer offers a great opportunity to build a high-quality genetic base quickly.

Another sale star was Pola Bear Ice Maiden, sold by invited vendor Dean Pola.

Andrew and Ketrina Baird, Boonah, pictured with David and Joy Deguara, Hamdenvale Brahmans. The Baird family purchased semen in JDH Duke De Manso and JDH Roma Manso, as well as a quality line-up of heifers.

Jessica Brieffies with lot 12, Pola Bear Ice Maiden, purchased by Milton Jones, Coolibah Station, Northern Territory, for $8000.
Cow, calf unit sizzles to $10,500 at Hamdenvale

Ice Maiden sold to Milton Jones of Coolibah Station in the Northern Territory for $8000. She was the first daughter of Akama Merton to be offered for sale.

Another repeat buyer, Gary Burling of Gargett, purchased a red daughter of Lancefield S Ruler out of a Tartrus Excalibur 4518 daughter for $3000.

Regular sale visitors and repeat buyers Geoff and Scott Angel, Glengarry Stud, Marlborough, took home Pioneer Park Melanie Manso 883, a JDH Mr Melanson Manso daughter, for $3000.

Eddie Pace of Mackay purchased Pioneer Park Flora Manso, a son of Tartrus Aristotle Manso 5128, for $3500, and also took home Pioneer Park Rosella, another Tartrus Aristotle Manso daughter, for $5250.

Damian Sturdy with Hamdenvale Ruby, purchased by Gary Burling of Gargett. He purchased the red daughter of Lancefield S Ruler out of a Tartrus Excalibur 4518 daughter for $3000.

David and Joy Deguara, Hamdenvale Brahmans, with Emanuel and Josie Pace, who purchased lot 1 for $10,500.

Geoff and Scott Angel, Glengarry Stud, Marlborough, took home Pioneer Park Melanie Manso 883, a JDH Mr Melanson Manso daughter, for $3000. Pictured are Geoff Angel and vendor Tony Brown.

The pen of Brahman steers that won the Brahman class at the All Breeds Steer Sale. Unfortunately the vendors, Brian Pastures Research Station, were not present for the sale. Pictured are Burnett Livestock & Realty’s Lance Whitaker and sale judge Graeme Acton, Acton Land & Cattle Company. The steers sold for 145.2c or $604/hd.
Farewell Sid

A state funeral to farewell the late Sid Parker OAM was held in Darwin on January 14.

Industry leaders from all over Australia, South East Asia and the United States converged in the Top End’s capital amongst many other mourners at the St Mary’s Star of the Sea Catholic Church to say goodbye to a man they not only respected, but called a friend.

As a man who developed Australia’s live export industry to South East Asia and then devoted his life to it, a state funeral was a fitting goodbye to the legend.

Former Northern Territory Minister for Primary Industry 1994-2001 Mick Palmer delivered a moving eulogy.

Mr Palmer said Mr Parker had two great loves – his first wife Eileen, who sadly passed away on February 22, 1995, and his current wife, Elvie.

He said it was almost impossible to put enough emphasis on what the live export trade, driven by Mr Parker and others, was able to do for the pastoral industry in the post-BTEC years.

"Sid had remarkable perception and an ability to foresee and proactively deal with emerging issues," Mr Palmer said.

"It was Sid who foresaw the problems and continually pushed for greater attention to the issues of animal welfare," he said.

"It was fairly easy to quickly develop a deep respect for Sid, along with an appreciation of his extensive knowledge of the industry and his strongly held principles of business ethics."

Dr Richard Trivett, Austrex, spoke about Sid’s achievements and contribution to the live export trade while Paul Cattermole told tales of Mr Parker’s accomplishments in various roles, including running the Victoria Hotel in north Rockhampton and then for a while at stations around Duaringa.

He got a start with Vesteys near Marlborough and in 1957 they sent him to Oban Station, near Dajarra.

It was at Oban where Sid first met Geoff Hill; a man who was to become his lifetime mate and whom, I feel at liberty to disclose here, was instrumental in getting Sid awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

Oban was also where Sid suffered a severe bout of hepatitis nearing on his early demise.

After recovering in Mount Isa, Vesteys sent him back to Rockhampton.

It was in 1959 that Vesteys sent Sid to Helen Springs as head stockman. It was at Helen where Sid had his first experience in road transportation of larger mobs of cattle, but after a falling out with the manager he made his way to Darwin.

In Darwin, Sid found refuge in the Vic hotel, where he met Eileen Ahern and, notwithstanding there was plenty of other accommodation available, where he resided for the ensuing seven years.

Sid found immediate employment with Henderson and Trippe and thus began what was to be his life’s calling in the live cattle export trade.

Mr Parker’s full eulogy as read by Mr Mick Palmer:

EARLY YEARS

Sidney Thomas Parker was born on June 22, 1925, in Springsure, Queensland, the youngest of four children to Jim and Florence Parker.

His early years were spent at Comet where his parents ran the local pub and where his father also ran cattle and horses.

Sid spent what was an apparently disinterested few years at Comet State School. He was more interested in helping his father with the horses and cattle and with an old horse drawn drilling rig that his father owned at the time.

One of his early lessons in livestock trading was when, at about 12, he was chauffeuring an A model Ford for a horse trader named Frank Beazley.

On a trip to inspect horses near Rolleston, young Sid, in an attempt to save a bit of effort, and as the car was parked some distance from the yards, decided to get the branding irons from the car before Beazley had time to inspect the horses.

To Sid's dismay, Beazley immediately informed the owner that the horses were not what he was looking for and they returned to the car.

Whilst driving away Beazley gave the young bloke a thorough rollicking for being so stupid as to bring the brands with him, thus indicating to the owner that they were going to buy and putting at least 5 quid on the asking price for the horses. A lesson Sid obviously carried with him for the rest of his life.

Sid completed his formal education at Rockhampton Grammar School. He always had a bit of that old grammarian about him.

INTRODUCTION TO DARWIN

In 1942, at age 17, after some time spent with the Allied Works Council, and being too young to enlist in the other services, Sid signed on for the Royal Australian Navy. He was posted aboard the HMAS Echuca, an escort corvette, upon which he saw service in New Guinea and north Australian waters. It was the Echuca that first brought him to Darwin.

Upon demobilization in 1946, Sid as you would say ‘knocked about a bit’ working in various roles, including running the Victoria Hotel in north Rockhampton and then for a while at stations around Duaringa.

He got a start with Vesteys near Marlborough and in 1957 they sent him to Oban Station, near Dajarra.

It was at Oban where Sid first met Geoff Hill; a man who was to become his lifetime mate and whom, I feel at liberty to disclose here, was instrumental in getting Sid awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

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Sid found immediate employment with Henderson and Trippe and thus began what was to be his life’s calling in the live cattle export trade.
Farewell Sid

A LIFE IN LIVEX
Sid served as a cattle buyer and in his words "jack of all trades" for Henderson and Trippe. It was during his time with Henderson and Trippe that the export yards were built at Fort Hill wharf, directly beneath Government House.

I cannot see Her Honour, The Administrator, today, putting up with the sweet and wafting aroma of wealth that inevitably emanates from such yards.

Sid left Charlie and Gus in early 1962 and went to work for Eddie and Bill Wong, abattoir operators from Hong Kong.

It was through the Wongs that Sid met Sir William Gunn, who in turn offered him a job with his company Tarwinnebah, which was to become Gunn Rural Management, better known as GRM.

It was in his capacity as regional supervisor for GRM, looking after its many and diversified activities, that Sid first came across David Crombie and Richard Trivett.

It was also during this time that Sid developed a relationship with Clausen Shipping, now known as the Corral Line, a relationship that has been maintained to this day, where the MV Finola is on full time charter.

Sir William’s dream for GRM and Tipperary began to unfold in 1967 with the failure of a 6000ha sorghum crop, and in 1968 Sid left to explore other options.

That same year, with Max Bell, Sid bought and took over the running of Bonrock Station along with and Meneling Abattoirs, which they had bought off Max Sargeant and which they turned into an export buffalo works.

In the meantime, Sid had married Eileen Ahern and after living for a while in rented accommodation in Douglas St, on May 2, 1969, at a cost of $29,000, they purchased the house at 5 Nelson St and which was where Sid passed away.

Having joined the Committee of the Darwin Turf Club in 1967, in 1974, it was suggested to Sid that he resign from the committee and take on the role of secretary/manager, which he did.

THE BIRTH OF ‘UNCLE SID’
I first got to know Sid in the early seventies through my employment in the Animal Industry Branch of the Northern Territory Administration, when the likes of Dave Napier and Sid, who was a major attendee, introduced a young and impressiveable Mick Palmer to what is known today as networking. Our important and necessary networking session could extend from lunch time well into the night and for which, I am proud to say, we never claimed overtime.

After his time at the Turf Club, Sid went on to work with Ian Brittin-Jones and David George as Brittin Jones and George, which went on to become Carabao Exports and which, in turn, was sold to the government of Brunei.

Sid stayed with Carabao as export manager until 1992, by which time it was Australia’s leading livestock exporter.

After a period spent working with Peter Sherwin, Sid, along with John Kaus, established South East Asia livestock Services, better known as SEALS. Sid remained active with SEALS to the last. In fact last Friday night, in the pub, Sid said to me and others, that it was his continued involvement and the fact that when he got up each morning he had something to do that kept him going.

It was after my appointment as Minister for Primary Industry in 1994 that I really got to know Old Sid.

He was simply just great company.

There was no way, however, that he was going to let a burgeoning young Minister get too full of his own importance or status.

Whilst never being disrespectful, he would let me know if I thought I was wrong or needed some guidance.

Sid came with me on my first trip as Minister to Indonesia and the Philippines.

In Jakarta, we were booked into the Borobudur Hotel and stayed there for about five days in total, around a day or so spent at other locations.

It was when checking out for the final time Sid expressed the view that his room was amongst the best he had ever stayed in. I thought the rooms were okay but nothing to rave about.

It was only when the hotel management and staff began thanking, and welcoming a return visit by the old grey haired and distinguished Minister, that I realised he had purloined the suite set aside for me.

It didn’t worry me as it was something I would certainly have done myself. But Sid never let me forget who the Indonesians rightfully thought should have been the Minister.

Another time I was able to get a bit of my own back.

We were in Bangkok in the office of one Kuhn Charoen, a Thai billionaire, industrialist, hotel/resort owner and developer, owner of the Carlsberg Brewery and Mekong Whiskey along with other and vast agricultural holdings.

The intention was to convince him that his mountains of waste agricultural product could be put to profitable use feeding Australian cattle.

Having told him that in our spare time and as a hobby we were amateur beer tasters he summonsed up trays of Carlsberg.

After a while, Charoen began bemoaning the fact he had tens of thousands of gallons rum he couldn’t get rid of. We quickly suggested we were also rum tasters, thus out came the rum.

As you can imagine, the atmosphere soon became very relaxed, and after inspecting his incredible collection of various works of art and Thai artifacts, Charoen said to me that me and my family were free to stay at any of his hotels or resorts, when so ever we pleased.

Sid chimmed in “I’m his uncle you know”. I then said to Charoen that my parents would be delighted to know our family had finally found our long lost uncle Sid.

That was how to me he became ‘Uncle Sid’.

A MAN OF MORALS
As the doyen of the live cattle trade and Chairman of the NT Livestock Exporters Association, Sid had remarkable perception and an ability to foresee and proactively deal with emerging issues.

Sid was fairly forthright in his view that whilst the industry could never meet the demands of the more radical elements of the animal rights lobby, it was in the exporter's best interests, both commercially and from a public relations point of view, to reduce morbidity and mortality rates throughout the length of the export chain.

Sid was held in the highest esteem throughout the industry. He had a simple mantra “everybody needs to make a profit”. 
His business ethics were impeccable; he insisted everyone got paid on time, no matter what; no excuses, no delays.

From the producer to the wet market vendor in Jakarta or Manila, in Sid’s mind everyone had to be viable or the whole export chain would collapse. He was also continually mindful, that for long term viability, profits had to be tempered by the need to keep prices at affordable levels in the consumer markets.

Not long after the completion of BTEC, there were no major or export abattoirs left operating in the NT. The nearest markets for many a producer were several thousand road miles away and the prices paid meant many, were at best, only marginal.

The live export trade transformed the pastoral industry from what can best be described as virtual feral bullock harvesting operations to highly developed professional outfits turning off quality young cattle employing the best of animal husbandry practices.

Not only did the export trade underpin the profitability of the pastoral industry, it provided a livelihood for everybody from feed growers and processors through to truck drivers and wharfies.

From any of them you never heard a bad word for Uncle Sid.

Sid’s contribution to the transformation of the pastoral industry and to the growth and development of those associated and ancillary industries should forever be remembered and recognized.

UNCLE SID’S FRIENDS

Over the last few years, I had lost touch a bit with Sid but when, last year he got banned from the Buff Club for raucous behavior he found a new watering hole at the Cav.

It was really interesting to see how so many people who hadn’t previously met him really started to enjoy his company and, on Friday afternoons especially, I would often get phone calls just to make sure Sid would be there.

One of his new friends, an audiologist, convinced Sid that he should have his hearing tested. The upshot was that Sid, probably like many of us here today, was suffering from significant hearing loss, so he ordered state of the art hearing aids to help ameliorate this affliction.

Come the day of the fitting, Deaf Mick went to Sid’s place and introduced him to his new hearing aids. Sid’s first reaction was that they were not much good as there was this incessant clicking noise in them. Mick mucked about with them for some time, tuning, fitting, retuning and refitting, still the clicking noise persisted.

All to no avail, just when it seemed several thousand dollars worth of hearing aids would need to be junked and a new set obtained, Mick asked Sid did the clicking noise rise and fall and come and go. The old boy agreed that was what was happening. It was then Mick realized that for the first time in many years Sid was hearing the cicadas.

HIS TWO GREAT LOVES

Sid had two great loves in his life.

His first wife Eileen, whom he met on arrival in Darwin through her employment running the accommodation at the Vic hotel and who sadly passed away on February 22, 1995.

It is Eileen’s son, Father Brian Aheam who is today celebrating Sid’s life. To you Father, let me extend, on behalf of us all, our heartfelt condolences.

His other great love was of course his current wife Elvie.

He met the then Elvie Tolentino through mutual friends in the Philippines in 1998.

Sid married Elvie on June 22, 2002, and to whom he remained devoted till the end.

To you Elvie, and to your daughters Jenny and Bing and to your son George, all whom he loved as his own, again, on behalf of all of us gathered here, and of the many unable to make it today, let me express our deep and heartfelt condolences, sympathies and best wishes.

Elvie has asked me to thank you all for coming today to celebrate Sid’s life, especially those who have made a special effort to be here, from all over Australia, South East Asia and the United States.

Elvie has also asked me to express her deep gratitude and appreciation to Faye and Brook Hartley, Mary Lee Trivet, Stewie Young and Vivian Inkley, all of whom have been of great comfort and assistance to her during this sad time.

Elvie has also asked me to thank the Chief Minister and the Government, the Opposition Leader and the people of the Northern Territory for honouring Sid with this State Funeral.

I personally would like to thank Elvie for bestowing on me the great privilege and honour of being asked to deliver this eulogy.

Well, by Jingies old mate, it has come to this.

I, like many others thought this day would never come or, if we did, we simply pushed from our minds.

Friday night, a week ago, in the Cav, you were full of life, telling your stories and reminiscing about old and often hilarious times.

Elvie was returning from the Philippines and that was making you even happier.

Then Monday morning that was it, you were gone.

Old friend, my dear old mate, you were much loved and will be sadly missed by us all.

Goodbye Uncle Sid, may you rest in peace.

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Web catalogue available mid April at www.brahman.com.au
Bulls sold to $10,000 and females met with 98 percent clearance at the 2014 February Brahman Summer Sale held at CQLX Gracemere on February 18.

The sale offered 206 Brahman bulls, plus 23 used sires and 54 registered females, to gross $978,200.

In total 137 bulls sold for $3571 average, representing a 60 percent clearance rate. The females met with stronger demand, with 45 of the 46 lots selling to record an average of $1076.

The top price of $10,000 was paid for Maru Edison Manso 157, offered by Gary Hiette, Barambah stud, Darts Creek. The May-2010 drop son of JDH Gardner Manso (imp) and FBC M Emlynne Manso was sold with a three-quarter share and full possession to Nathan and Julie Deguara, Pindi NJ stud, Calen.

Gavin Scott, Rosetta, Collinsville outlaid $9500 for used sire El Ja Dynamite Manso, a five-and-a-half-year-old son of JDH Sir Tobe Manso (imp) and the Lancefield Signature cow El Ja Deena Manso. He was catalogued by Les and Helen Donald, El Ja, Theodore.

Also going for $9500 was Stewart Park Kody Manso, from Carl Morawitz’s Stewart Park stud, Comet. The three-year-old by Elrose Kody Man was purchased by the Finger family, Mutation stud, Clermont.

D. and G. Rockemer bid to $8750 to secure 30-month-old Yenda Harrison from Ron and Daphne Kirk’s Yenda stud, Gayndah. The grey, who is a son of Yenda 446/5 and out of a JDH Mr Manso 35/1 (imp) cow, was one of five Yenda bulls sold for $4650 avg.
Chasmac Park Patty Manso, an October 2011-drop son of PBF Paddy Boy Manso, was the best seller from Charles McKinlay’s Chasmac Park stud, Comet. He went for $8000 to Lake Elphinstone Partnership. The McKinlays also received $7000 for their Elrose Kody Man son, Chasmac Park Kody Manso 185, purchased by P. and L. Smallcombe.

Hills Grazing paid $7500 for the top priced red bull, Ego Jacapeno, from the Godden family’s Ego stud, Gympie. The scurred 29-month-old son of Garglen Tabasco is out of the Mr Winchester Magnum 999 (imp) cow Palmvale Miss Redneck 2659. Ego averaged $4625 for five bulls.

Ron and Bev White, Wilangij, Marlborough, invested $6500 in two-year-old Glengarry G Skyline from Geoff and Gladys Angel’s Glengarry stud, Kunwarara. The blue-grey bull is by Savannah Dream Boy 161.

Seven Mile Brahmans, Mackay, offered the IVF son of Tartrus Aristotle Manso, Seven Mile Nicomachus, and was rewarded with a winning bid of $6000. The December 2011-drop grey was purchased by Reg Valmadre, Cedar Bend, Jambin.

Bill Smith paid $6000 for Kenrol Nevan, from Ken and Wendy Cole’s Kenrol stud, Gracemere. The grey son of polled sire Elrose Barocca is out of one of the stud’s top females, Kenrol Geneva 0136.

The used six-year-old red bull NCC Jingles was catalogued by Nick Dudarko, Kangarin, Biloela and sold for $6000 to Geoff Shaw.

Gavin Scott paid $5500 for seven-year-old PBF Woodman Manso 189/9, a used son of JDH Mr Woodman Manso (imp) offered by Vic Deguara, Savannah, Eton. In total Mr Scott took home three bulls and five heifers from the Brahman Summer Sale.

The Trueman family bid $5000 to secure Stewart Park Patty Manso, by PBF Paddy Boy Manso, and another $5000 sale was that of the Yenda Nelson son, Yenda Mr 421/1 to Rideout Grazing Co.

The top priced herd bull at $5000 was a red 29-month-old son of NCC Nboma, offered by Peter and Joy Newman, Rathlyn N stud, Emerald. He was purchased by A. and J. Hay who also paid $4500 for a Rathlyn N herd bull by Lancefield D Royalty.

The top priced female at $2750 was Pioneer Park Lady Amelia Manso, offered by Pioneer Park, Pleystowe. The October 2011-drop female had been running with Lancefield S Warwick and was purchased by Matt Bishop, Garglen S, Kandanga.

The top priced cow and calf was Renco Jane Manso, from Justin and Steven Ensby’s Renco stud, Dululu. The daughter of PBF Burnett Manso was snapped up for $2250 by Genash NQ Pty Ltd which secured one bull and eight females.
Roseborough L heifer tops Laidley sale

Buyers from as far afield and Victoria and New South Wales were in attendance at the Laidley and District Brahman Breeders’ 16th Annual Invitation Female Sale on Saturday, January 18.

Despite drought conditions, the Laidley Saleyards event recorded a 64 percent clearance with 32 lots selling for an average of $1375.

The top price of $3250 was paid for Roseborough L Taingo 248/2, a polled daughter of Mt Callan Kojack offered by Lynn Walther and Wendy Green, Roseborough L stud, Lowood. The 14-month-old red heifer was jointly purchased by Tim Krause, Malabar, Marburg and Mike Peters, Bremer Vale, Rosewood.

Ross Kinbacher paid second top price of $2750 for the red heifer Malabar Zara 60, who will join his Garthowen stud at Biggenden. The polled daughter of Edenglassie Sundowner was offered by Malabar stud.

Winner of the buyers’ and bidders’ draw was Alex Curry, Rosebrook, Gatton who went into the running to win a heifer after purchasing Malabar Annabelle on the day. His prize was the polled red female Rodlyn Miss 38/12, a daughter of Muan A Juke from Rod and Lyn Sperling’s Rodlyn stud, Bell.

Major buyer at the sale was the Allen family, Springhaven, Lismore, NSW who took home five females at $1500 average. Local buyers K. and J. Hayes, Brightview, selected three breeders for a total outlay of $4500.

The sale committee and members would like to thank all buyers and bidders for their support and wish them all the best with their purchases.
Before taking your photo check that your camera is set on the HIGHEST resolution.

Make sure to take the photograph of the animal side on and standing as square as possible. Attract the animal’s attention so their head is slightly turned to camera and their ears are forward. Make sure to include all of animal, do not cut off feet or ears.

Try NOT to take photo in long grass and AVOID taking photo of animal in front of a cluttered background if possible.

Ideally take the photo in full sun with the sun BEHIND the camera and avoid shadows across animal.

DO NOT COLOUR CORRECT OR CROP YOUR PHOTOS - supply original images.

When attaching JPG photos to emails please label them by their name or lot number and which sale they are for.

Send photo at “ACTUAL SIZE” via email (ie. not Skydrive).

If large photos send one at a time, rather than all at once.

If the photos are for use in the Brahman News or Brahman Graphics please email to: liz@brahman.com.au

If the photos are for Online Sale Catalogues only please email to: jan@brahman.com.au
CashCow project exposes North’s potential for better reproductive performance

One of the largest and most comprehensive cattle research projects ever conducted across northern Australia has unearthed a treasure trove of opportunity to improve the region’s reproductive performance.

The ambitious CashCow project, started back in 2007, has now been completed and a final project report was released by MLA last week.

Its objective has been to explore the complex set of challenges which impact on beef cow reproductive performance across northern Australia, and provide some solutions for future improvement.

It’s long been known that fertility and reproductive performance across many areas of northern Australia contrasts dramatically with typical performance seen further south, for a variety of reasons. With more than half the nation’s beef herd now located in the northern Australia region (Queensland, the NT and northern parts of WA), any shift in fertility performance across the region has industry-wide implications.

The research team put together to devise and manage the project included many of the nation’s best known animal reproductive scientists, nutritionists, veterinarians and specialists in other disciplines.

Over four consecutive years since 2008, a large field team has assessed the reproductive performance of 78,000 commercial breeding cows using a crush-side electronic data capture system. For example, foetal age scanning was used at the time of annual pregnancy diagnosis to enable the month of conception and calving to be estimated.

The cattle involved in the exercise were managed in 142 separate mobs, located on 72 commercial northern Australian breeding properties.

TABLE A: OBSERVED REPRODUCTIVE PERFORMANCE (MEDIAN, INTER-QUARTILE RANGE*) OF COW MOBS BY COUNTRY TYPE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEASURE</th>
<th>SOUTHERN FOREST</th>
<th>CENTRAL FOREST</th>
<th>NORTHERN DOWNS</th>
<th>NORTHERN FOREST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P4M (%)</td>
<td>78 (65-89)</td>
<td>81 (69-88)</td>
<td>76 (69-81)</td>
<td>26 (14-47)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Pregnancy rate (%)</td>
<td>85 (76-92)</td>
<td>85 (79-92)</td>
<td>80 (75-90)</td>
<td>66 (55-73)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foetal/calf loss (%)</td>
<td>5 (2-9)</td>
<td>6 (5-9)</td>
<td>8 (5-14)</td>
<td>13 (9-18)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*25th to 75th percentile values
CashCow project exposes North’s potential for better reproductive performance

Performance was defined based on percentage of lactating cows pregnant within four months of calving; annual pregnancy rate; percentage foetal/calf loss between pregnancy diagnosis and weaning; and annual mortality rate of pregnant cows.

As can be seen in the table published here, there was marked variation in the reproductive performance of breeders both within and between country types. Four regional country type categories were examined – southern, central and northern forest, and northern downs country.

Cow performance in the Northern forest country, for example, was substantially poorer than in other country types: 35-60pc fewer cows pregnant within 4 months of calving; 6-10pc higher foetal and calf loss; and 6-9pc higher cow mortality rate. The poor performance of Northern forest cows resulted in much lower impacts of other major risk factors than in other country types, such as the effect of body condition score.

In two case studies investigated in the project, 5-6pc adult animal mortalities were shown to reduce the business’s operating margin by about 20c/kg of all liveweight produced. Therefore, cow mortalities are a significant issue affecting beef production within breeding production systems in north Australia, the report concluded.

A good indicator of what is a commercially achievable level of performance is the 75th percentile mob or cow performance within country type (note for percentage foetal calf loss, the achievable level of performance is the 25th percentile). Therefore, from the table published here, the ‘achievable’ percentage P4M for cow mobs is 89pc in the Southern forest, 88pc in the Central forest, 81pc in the Northern downs, and 47pc in the Northern forest. The achievable foetal/calf losses were calculated at 2pc in the Southern forest, 5pc in the Central forest, 5pc in the Northern downs, and 9pc in the Northern forest.

An important outcome from the project has been the establishment of methods of estimating liveweight production from northern breeding herds, and an achievable level determined for each country type.

The impacts of no less than 83 property, environmental, nutritional, management, and infectious disease factors on performance were investigated as part of the CashCow project. The major factors affecting performance included:

- country type
- time of previous calving
- wet season phosphorous status
- cow body condition
- hip-height
- cow age
- cow reproductive history
- severity of environmental conditions, and
- occurrence of mustering events around the time of calving.

CASHCOW CONCLUSIONS

Some of the main CashCow conclusions included:

- The large variation in production and performance suggested there is potential for many businesses to improve their reproductive performance. An understanding of prevailing and achievable performance in a specific environment and season provides opportunities for businesses to better tailor their management.

- Achievable production and performance for the main country types used for breeding in northern Australia have been defined. It may be that annual steer growth in specific environments is a key indicator of achievable liveweight production per hectare from breeding herds.

- The dominant effect of nutrition on cow performance indicated that targeted rangeland and animal management, allied with strategic supplementation are key elements of efficient cow herd management. Major nutritional impacts, some of which is mediated by body condition, were caused by phosphorous adequacy, available pasture, an seasonal conditions.

- Foetal and calf loss is high for many cattle enterprises across northern Australia, and is consistently high in the Northern forest country. The risk factors associated with increased percentage loss suggest that calf viability and failure of suckling as a result of cow, nutritional, and environmental factors are likely to be major causes of calf loss.

- All elements contributing to reproductive potential are severely compromised in the Northern forest country region. This indicates that breeding cow performance R&D and extension in this region should maintain a high focus on non-genetic effects such as weaning, waters, supplements, disease management, and enhancing the calving environment.

- In terms of disease impacts, BVDV (pestivirus) had significant impact on performance of cows exposed at critical times. Likewise with vibriosis, though the specific reason for the observed impact needed further investigation, researchers said. The impact of botulism could not be assessed. In light of the project’s findings, best-practice control measures should be maintained or implemented across the region for all three diseases, the report suggested.

- Large mature cow size was associated with diminished reproductive performance. Attention to both reproductive traits and to mature size in selection of replacement breeding animals should be considered to overcome this.
A range of suggestions for extension and research based on the outcomes from the CashCow project have been put forward. The establishment of ongoing monitoring of performance of commercial breeder herds was critical to evaluate the effects of various management strategies designed to address the major factors affecting performance identified in the CashCow project, the report authors said.

Further, to take advantage of the findings of the project and other research outcomes relevant to breeding cow herds in northern Australia, producers must have a good understanding of how their beef breeding business is performing, so that the cost-benefit of applying changes can be accurately gauged and efficiently implemented.

An Excel spreadsheet-based method requiring a small amount of readily-measured beef business inputs was developed as part of the CashCow project to generate satisfactory estimates of business indicators, such as operating margin. This data can be utilised in BREEDCOW, and then using the estimates of the effect of specific factors on cow performance derived from the CashCow project, estimates of the effects of each factor on gross margin for herds and partial returns per cow can be determined.

Another key feature of the project was its focus on both production and performance. The function of breeding beef cattle herds is net saleable liveweight production, the primary income source.

Liveweight production in breeding herds is achieved through weaned calves and by cows surviving and gaining weight, which are performance traits and used to indicate where opportunities for improvement exist if production is inadequate.

Beef export demand is forecast to remain strong thanks to high demand of Australian reputable product and the lower A$ however with volumes at less than the record numbers set in 2013 due to lower production levels. Global economic conditions are set to again improve in 2014, assisted by continuing recoveries in the advanced economies of the US, Japan and EU, along with the sustained performance of China and South East Asia.

Japan is forecast to remain the highest volume export market with around 270,000 tonnes swt, the US forecast to be 210,000 tonnes swt, China to maintain last year’s volumes at 155,000 tonnes swt, and South Korea forecast to decline to 120,000 tonnes swt.

Beef exports to Indonesia are forecast to increase 27% year-on-year to 50,000 tonnes swt, while the Australian market is expected to decline to 662,000 tonnes cwt, as export markets outcompete on price for the reduced volume of beef.

Live cattle exports forecast to reach 900,000 head, an increase of 13%. Indonesia will potentially import the highest volume since 2009 at more than 600,000 head, and a 36% increase year-on-year. This increase is forecast to be facilitated by increased allocation of import permits under the revised importation protocols, aimed at increasing the supply of beef in the Indonesian market.
The Australian Poll Gene Marker test

WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN POLL GENE MARKER TEST?

The Australian Poll Gene Marker test is used to measure the likelihood that a polled animal only carries the polled gene. The test is used to determine if an animal is ‘true polled’, known as homozygous (PP), or heterozygous (PH).

Identifying breeding animals that are ‘true polled’ and carry two copies of the poll allele will dramatically reduce the requirement for dehorning in subsequent generations.

The test was first released in 2010 by the CRC for Beef Genetic Technologies. It has since been refined with increased accuracy and application across a wider number of breeds.

WHICH BREEDS CAN THE TEST BE USED FOR?

The test was initially developed on Brahmans and can now be used with a high degree of confidence across a range of tropical and temperate breeds. Research has shown that the test has a high degree of accuracy and will return an informative result in most cases.

Table 1 below outlines the number of animals by breed that were tested and the proportion of animals for which the test returned an informative result.

The test has potential application in a variety of other breeds, including cross-bred herds. Laboratories that provide the test can advise on the applicability of the test on different herds.

HOW ACCURATE IS THE TEST?

In most cases where an informative result is returned the accuracy is high – above 98%. If the result is less than 90% accurate, no result will be returned.

HOW IS THIS TEST DIFFERENT TO THE PREVIOUS TEST?

The first test was based on a single DNA marker, whereas this new test includes information from a further nine markers. In some breeds, such as Brahman, a single allele at the DNA marker was almost always associated with polledness and other alleles always associated with horned, making the test highly accurate. However, in other breeds, multiple alleles had associations with both polledness and horned, so the test could not accurately distinguish between PP and PH animals.

By using information from an additional nine markers, the new test can create haplotypes. This allows more accurate tracking of alleles and their association with polledness. The additional information also increases test accuracy and the proportion of animals for which the test returns an informative result.

Table 1: Number of Polled Animals Tested and Proportion of Genotypes Assigned with Confidence (% Non-Ambiguous) for Nine Breeds Assessed During Polled Marker Field Testing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BREED</th>
<th>NUMBER TESTED</th>
<th>% INFORMATIVE RESULT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brahman</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brangus</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charolais</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Droughtmaster</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hereford</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limousin</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Santa Gertrudis</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shorthorn</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simmental</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Australian Poll Gene Marker test

**WHO PERFORMS THE TEST?**
The Australian Poll Gene Marker test will be available from the Animal Genetics Laboratory at the University of Queensland and Zoetis Animal Genetics.

The cost of the test will be set by individual providers. Producers can contact the service providers directly, or through the relevant breed association or society office.

Hair, blood, tissue or semen samples can all be used to perform the test.

Providing information on the breed and phenotype of the animals being tested when submitting the sample will assist increasing the proportion of animals that an informative result can be returned for.

**HOW ARE THE RESULTS REPORTED?**
The results will describe the percentage chance of the most likely genotype. The genotypes that will be reported are homozygous polled (PP), heterozygous polled (PH) or homozygous horned (HH).

The accuracy of the test result will be reported alongside the most likely genotype. This accuracy will range from 90% to 99%.

If the test does not return an informative result, the accuracy is less than 90%, the result will be returned as Not Determined (ND).

**DEFINITIONS**
- **Allele** – a variant of the genetic code at the gene. At polled we assume two alleles, P and H.
- **Gene** – unit of genetic code that influences phenotype.
- **Genotype** – each animal carries two alleles, these comprise the genotype.
- **Haplotype** – is a set of characteristics on a single chromosome that are statistically associated.
- **Heterozygous** – the two alleles comprising the animal’s genotype are different.
- **Homozygous** – the two alleles comprising the animal’s genotype are the same.
- **Phenotype** – the trait as observed in the animal. Phenotype is affected by both genetics and environment.

**FIGURE 1: EXAMPLE OF AUSTRALIAN POLL GENE MARKER TEST RESULTS.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bull 1</th>
<th>Bull 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polled gene</td>
<td>Polled gene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PP 98%</td>
<td>PH 95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ted Kirk started his 90th birthday celebrations with a flight in a Cessna 150G followed by a special gathering with family and friends at Hazelton, Gayndah on February 8th.
Research: New risk factors identified in BRD project

Identification of some new risk factors was one of the key outcomes from an important study into Bovine Respiratory Disease discussed during the feedlot industry’s recent BeefWorks forum held on the Darling Downs.

Researcher Tim Mahony from University of Queensland presented some of the key outcomes from the National Bovine Respiratory Disease Initiative project. He said the results from the project supported the view that effective BRD management will require greater cooperation between all sectors of the Australian beef industry.

BRD is consistently ranked as the number one health issue of feedlot cattle in Australia and indeed, across the world. The development of BRD is a result of a complex interaction of animal factors, environmental factors and exposure to infectious agents which can all increase the likelihood of disease.

In order to understand how these factors contribute to BRD development a study has been undertaken over the past five years to confirm and quantify these risks, and try to determine what factors, including potential new ones, pre-dispose some cattle to contracting BRD.

The purpose of quantifying factors that put cattle at greater risk of developing BRD is to allow feedlot operators to identify strategies for their enterprises that reduce these risks, and ultimately to minimise the economic impact of BRD.

The large project involved 14 feedlots in five states, and more than 35,000 cattle in 170 cohorts (pen groups).

As is seen fairly typically acrosslotfeeding operations, about 18 percent of the animals in the study contracted BRD at some point. About 97pc of the BRD cases were seen in the first 50 days. About 77pc of cases identified resulted in pulls. BRD-related mortality was 0.66pc.

While there has been some talk around the industry of a ‘second wave’ of BRD occurrence around day 70-80, this research trial showed little evidence of it.

Blood samples and nasal swabs were collected at the time of induction from each animal, and again if an animal was hospitalised with BRD during the time on feed. A second blood sample was also collected for all study animals after six weeks on feed.

Where possible, tissue samples from deaths considered to be BRD-related were also collected.

A subset of the collected blood samples were tested to determine how exposure to viral pathogens contributes to BRD, while nasal swabs were used to determine what viruses were present in cattle when they were sampled at induction and when pulled for BRD.

Management data were collected for all study animals from the participating feedlots for the time cattle were on feed. Where possible, owners of directly-sourced feeder cattle were surveyed regarding the weaning and other management procedures and practices utilised prior to sale.

Additionally, in a world first, NLIS records were obtained for all cattle in the study to track the life-time movements from property to property, using property identification codes (PICs), to feedlot arrival. These records were also used to determine when cattle had been mixed prior to arrival at the feedlot, whether they had passed through a saleyard, and to estimate transport time to the feedlot. Data was also collected on weather patterns that might have influenced outcomes.

All of this collected information was used to try to determine what might affect animals getting BRD. A variety of risk factors, both new and existing, were identified:

**BREED**

Dr Mahony said it came as no surprise to learn from the study that breed-type is linked to BRD performance.

Using Angus (representing 56pc of cattle in the study) as a reference point, Herefords were shown to be twice as likely to contract BRD, while tropical breeds (15.8pc of the cattle in the study) and European crosses were less likely to get BRD. A surprising finding was the Murray Grey cattle were less likely to get BRD compared to Angus, although they represented only 2.6pc of the study population.

**WEANING METHOD**

Completed surveys from cattle breeders supplying the feeder cattle were obtained for 10,693 animals, representing 31pc of the overall numbers. Yard weaning was shown to reduce the risk of BRD compared to paddock-weaned cattle, in this group.
INDUCTION WEIGHT
The weight of cattle at induction was shown to affect the likelihood of cattle developing BRD. Cattle with induction weights less than 425kg were more likely to get BRD compared to cattle weighing 425-450kg. In contrast, cattle weighing >450kg were less likely to get BRD compared to the immediate lighter group.

MIXING OF CATTLE - ON-PROPERTY
The research found no evidence of any impact on BRD risk if cattle are mixed on the property of origin.

MIXING OF CATTLE - SALEYARDS
In contrast, the analysis completed so far indicated that saleyards can affect the BRD risk:

- Saleyard transit prior 27 days to feedlot induction decreases risk, while
- Saleyard transit within 27 days of feedlot induction increases risk.

“However further analysis is required to determine if the observed effects on BRD risk are over and above the effects of mixing alone,” Dr Mahony said.

The NLIS data were utilised to track the lifetime movements of cattle and to identify whether cattle had been mixed with others from a different PIC within particular time periods prior to the cohort being filled (i.e. no more cattle added to the feedlot pen).

CATTLE AT LOWEST RISK OF BRD WERE:

- Cattle that had not been mixed within 27 days of the pen being filled, regardless of whether they had been mixed earlier and;
- Cattle that had been mixed at least 28 days prior and were then only mixed with 2-3 Group13 animals prior to the cohort being filled. (‘Group13’ referred to animals in a group with 50 animals or more at least 13 days before induction.)

Two common mixing patterns associated with high risk were:

- Cattle that had never been mixed prior to 13 days before going on feed and were then mixed with 4 or more Group13s prior to the cohort being filled and;
- Cattle that had been at least 28 days prior and were then mixed with 4 or more Group13s prior to the cohort being filled ‘Group13’ animals were at reduced risk of BRD. The BRD risk was reduced if the ‘Group13’ groups contained more than 100 animals.

TRANSPORT TIME
Cattle transported for six or more hours within a day of induction were shown to be at a slightly increased risk of BRD compared to those transported for less than six hours.

DELAYED INDUCTION AFTER ARRIVAL
Animals transported to the feedlot at least 28 days before feedlot induction were at reduced risk of getting BRD.

PEN FILLING
Cattle in study cohorts where the pen was filled in a single day were less like to get BRD compared to pens filled over a number of days. The time it took to fill cohorts also affected the BRD risk of cattle with the last cattle to enter a cohort having a higher risk of BRD compared to those inducted earlier.

SEASON OF INDUCTION
Animals inducted in summer, autumn and winter were at greater risk of getting BRD compared to spring inductions. Risk was similar in both summer and autumn with...
animals inducted in these seasons being at least twice as likely to get BRD compared to those inducted in the spring.

PEN FEATURES
Cattle in pens with shared water were at higher risk of BRD compared to cattle in pens without shared water. The number of adjoining pens did not affect the risk of BRD. The effect of shade in pens was inconclusive and required additional investigation, Dr Mahony said.

FEEDLOT REGION
For reasons yet unexplained by researchers, cattle in feedlots in southern regions were at considerable higher risk of contracting BRD than those further north. This increased risk – one of the highest risk factors identified in the study - was over and above what could be explained by differences in breed type, weight, weather and other factors.

RISK FACTORS NOT SHOWN TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH BRD RISK
A number of potential risk factors assessed in the study did not produce any association with BRD. For example various factors relating to diet were examined with risk factors such as percentage grain in the diet at start of time on feed and after 21 days. Other factors not associated with BRD risk were dentition and vitamins A, D, E at induction.

Nor could any determination be made regarding the efficacy of the various vaccines that are currently used in the industry.

“The purpose of this study was to determine how various risk factors affected the likelihood of cattle to get BRD as observers,” Dr Mahony said.

“To determine the impact of vaccination on BRD, a randomised vaccination/control trial would be required where the vaccines are applied to random to one group, and not another. However as feedlots in the study tended to either use or not use vaccination no comparative analyses could be performed.”

“The timing of mixing of animals from different PICs relative to feedlot induction and the time of the move to the feedlot were shown to be very important. Moving and mixing of cattle too close to feedlot induction may increase the likelihood of BRD development,” Dr Mahoney said.

Collectively the results indicated that mixing of cattle has an important impact on BRD risk, with the mixing of cattle well before feedlot induction tending to lessen BRD risk.

“Possible reasons for this are that cattle are able to establish a stable social group and are possibly exposed to pathogens in a less stressful environment compared to the feedlot,” Dr Mahony said.

The importance of weaning method and cattle mixing/moving in BRD development indicated how producers/vendors can impact on BRD outcomes in feedlots.

The results supported the view that effective BRD management may require greater cooperation between all sectors of the Australian beef industry, he said.

“There are many factors which influence the decision to buy cattle for feedlot finishing and it might be that the risk factors identified in this study are out of the control of a cattle buyer. An example of this would be the strong association with season which certainly can’t be changed by an operator.”

BRD DECISION-MAKING TOOLS ON THE HORIZON?
Similar to other industry issues, the purpose of understanding the positive and negative risk factors associated with BRD is to understand what the BRD risk in purchased cattle is for feedlot buyers.

“If a group of purchased cattle are deemed to have a high risk profile for BRD, it might be possible to adjust standard operating procedures to account for this,” Dr Mahony said.

While the analysis of the project outcomes are continuing, the project team is now considering how best the complex results might be delivered to industry.

Suggestions so far have included the development of a ‘BRD decision-making tree’, the development of a ‘BRD App’, and a ‘BRD Risk calculator’ similar to the industry’s heatload Risk Analysis Program (RAP).

A BRD decision-support tool could be divided into two sections:

• Decision to purchase: What do you know about cattle before purchase? What could you find out? What would alter your decision to purchase?
• Decisions on management after purchase: If increased risk is identified, what would be required to reallocate resources?

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